



HUMAN RIGHTS



DATA AT A GLANCE

Mexico is considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist.

Since 2006 more journalists have gone missing in Mexico than in any other country.

The GOM's National Human Rights Commission records 91% rate of impunity with regard to aggressions against journalists since 2000.

The international human rights organization ARTICLE 19 recorded 330 instances of aggressions against journalists in 2013.

OVERVIEW

Over the past five years, the United Nations and the Organization of American States have issued a number of international human rights recommendations to Mexico. Serious concerns identified in these recommendations include torture, disappeared persons, aggression against human rights defenders and journalists, and violence against women. The Government of Mexico (GOM) has attempted to address these concerns through various measures, such as a constitutional reform that elevates Mexico's obligations under international treaties to the level of its Constitution. The GOM also developed a National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists and empowered federal authorities to investigate and prosecute attacks on journalists, as well as gender-based violence.

OBJECTIVE

Under USAID Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy 2014-2018, USAID's programming works to advance the protection of human rights and prevent abuses by supporting GOM and civil society efforts on protection, outreach, and awareness. USAID promotes the incorporation of human rights-based approaches into federal- and state-level policies, and facilitates dialogue and engagement between the GOM and civil society on human rights issues. USAID's human rights programming has been in place since August 2009, and currently has initiatives planned through September 2018, with more than USD\$35 million in funding anticipated over the life of the program. In addition to the initiatives described below, USAID's support to criminal justice sector reform also builds GOM capacity to assist victims of human rights abuses and train criminal justice sector operators, including police, on human rights protection. Human rights remains an important component of the Merida Initiative, a bilateral partnership to improve citizen security in Mexico by fighting organized crime and building strong communities. Following the positive results of our human rights initiatives, programming in this area will continue to expand.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- USAID initiatives have trained over 270 government and civil society representatives on the Constitutional Human Rights Reform in eight different states.
- To date, USAID has supported training to over 800 journalists on self-protection and digital security so that they are better able to operate safely as a journalist in Mexico.
- Through support for the adoption of an effective legislative framework, USAID facilitated improved legal protections for journalists and human rights defenders.

- USAID supported training for over 750 security force and investigative authorities, members of civil society organizations and academia on the prevention of torture and on current international standards on human rights practices.
- USAID facilitated the development of technical guidelines, model legislation, and recommendations to prevent torture so that the GOM has the tools necessary to better align Mexico's legal framework to international human rights standards.

USAID HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES

Constitutional Human Rights Practice

Implementer: Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia (IMDHD)

The program contributes to the effective implementation of the Human Rights Constitutional Reform by conducting analyses of current implementation efforts and issuing recommendations on best practices, generating proposals and providing training related to the reform at the federal and local levels, as well as conducting analyses and public information campaigns related to the protection provided through the constitutional human rights reforms.

National Campaign to Prevent Torture

Implementer: National Institute for Security and Democracy (INSYDE)

INSYDE is developing a national campaign to prevent torture through promoting an improved dialogue and exchange between civil society organizations and the GOM. The objectives of the program include the development and launch of a National Campaign to Prevent Torture, the promotion of a positive dialogue between government and civil society on the prevention of torture, and informing citizens, civil society and victims of their rights and the institutional mechanisms for guaranteeing those rights.

Protecting Human Rights and Freedom of Expression Program

Implementer: Freedom House

This initiative seeks to improve state and civil society actions to protect journalists and human rights defenders under attack or at risk for their work. The initiative aims to work with federal and local government and civil society to protect journalists and human rights defenders from violence, provide technical assistance to the GOM to strengthen the National Mechanism to Protect Journalists and other Human Rights Defenders, develop strategic partnerships with civil society to build its capacity to respond to threats, and advocate for increased protection and apply lessons learned from international best practices in protecting freedom of expression.